United Nations A/61/559–S/2006/863

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
3 November 2006

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 8 and 19

General debate

Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 3 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 November 2006, addressed to you by Murat Soysal, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Representation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 8 and 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the remarks made on 22 September 2006 by the Greek Cypriot representative, Mr. Mavroyiannis, at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly and, in exercise of the right of reply, would like to bring to your kind attention the following.

It is regrettable to observe that the Greek Cypriot representative once again chose to exploit the United Nations platform in order to mislead the international community regarding the developments in the Cyprus issue at a time when the Turkish Cypriot side, with the full support of Turkey, has been doing its utmost for the favourable conclusion of the current process that was initiated by the 8 July agreement reached between the two leaders on the island.

The fact, as acknowledged by all concerned parties, is that the Turkish Cypriot people have proven their commitment to achieve the reunification of the island by overwhelmingly voting in favour of your plan at the referendums of 24 April 2004. However, the Greek Cypriot Administration, which has become more and more entrenched in the status quo since the referendums, continues to express its baseless allegations against the Turkish Cypriot side and Turkey.

It should be reiterated that, following the referendums, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus maintained its vision for a comprehensive solution and reunification of the island, despite the uncompromising stance of the Greek Cypriot leadership, which culminated in the rejection of your plan. The results of a recent survey conducted by the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation in the South, demonstrated that almost half of the Greek Cypriots (48 per cent) do not want to live together with the Turkish Cypriots (the Greek Cypriot daily, *Cyprus Mail*, dated 5 April 2006), in other words, they are in favour of partition. Thus, claiming that the Turkish Cypriot side has secessionist aspirations and Turkey is supporting the Turkish Cypriot side in that regard is totally misleading.

Speaking in unison with his leader, Mr. Mavroyiannis alleges that political equality of the two sides is not part of the United Nations parameters, whereas the international community and relevant treaties endorsed the political equality of the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots. As you are well aware, the principle of political equality is a fundamental United Nations parameter on the Cyprus issue, which was accordingly included in the 8 July agreement on the establishment of the technical committees and working groups.

The crux of the matter is that the Greek Cypriot leadership is still not ready to share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriot side in a federal structure based on bizonality and political equality. In line with this policy, the Greek Cypriot leadership is obviously attempting to undermine this well-established United Nations parameter and envision annexing the Turkish Cypriots as a minority to the so-called recognized "State", which usurped the title of the Republic in 1963.

It is our considered opinion that the Greek Cypriot Administration should be reminded that its counterpart is the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, within the context of the efforts to find a settlement in Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot Administration, by manipulating its unjust European Union membership and

bypassing the Turkish Cypriot side as its counterpart, is trying to extract unilateral concessions from Turkey regarding the Cyprus issue. It has become clear from recent efforts of the Greek Cypriot Administration that it is using the European Union membership card to secure a settlement in line with its political ambitions. Under these circumstances, it is the Greek Cypriot side which needs to prove its sincerity by matching words with concrete actions in order to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem on the established United Nations parameters.

With reference to the accusations by the Greek Cypriot representative regarding the process envisaged in the 8 July agreement, it should be stressed that despite the repeated calls of the United Nations and the constructive approach of the Turkish Cypriot side, the technical committees have not been established to this date owing to the Greek Cypriot reluctance in this regard. As the Turkish Cypriot side, our expectation is that the technical committees and the working groups, which would be useful for the creation of an atmosphere of confidence between the two sides, should be formed without further delay. However, this exercise cannot divert the main thrust of the settlement efforts under the United Nations, that is, the commencement of full-fledged negotiations on the substantive issues between the two leaders in the shortest possible time. We believe that the process which was started with the 8 July agreement should not be seen or taken as an academic process to analyse the Cyprus problem from the beginning since enough preparation has already been done in four decades of the negotiation process, which culminated in your comprehensive settlement plan.

In line with the propaganda campaign employed by the Greek Cypriot Administration in an increasing manner, the Greek Cypriot representative claims that the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots is unsubstantiated. It should be underlined that this propaganda cannot change the reality that for more than 40 years, the Greek Cypriot Administration has been relentlessly pursuing a policy aimed at the total isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people. In this context, I hardly need to recall your remarks recorded in your report on your mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2004/437), in which you pointed out that the results of the referendums had undone whatever rationale might have existed for pressuring and isolating the Turkish Cypriots and called upon the international community to ease the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people, as well as the European Council's decision of 26 April 2004 in this regard. It is unfortunate to see the Greek Cypriot representative making a mockery of this serious issue in the face of international calls which should have not been made in the first place, if there is no such thing as the isolation of Turkish Cypriots.

We believe it is high time for the international community to take tangible steps towards ending the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot people and lifting the restrictions on their economic and social life in order to facilitate their overall development, thereby motivating the Greek Cypriot Administration to start looking upon the Turkish Cypriot people as an equal partner.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the firm dedication of the Turkish Cypriot side to the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of the Annan plan.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 8 and 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Murat **Soysal**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.